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AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 196513

TERREP EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER
SUBJECT: IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM

11. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

12. THE FOLLOWING SIRO ANALYSIS OF IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM IS BEING SENT AS A PART OF A PACKAGE OF INTELLIGENCE TO REINFORCE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PRESENTATION ON TERRORISM DURING HIS TALKS WITH HOST COUNTRIES. OTHER ANALYSES DEAL WITH LIBYA AND BEIRUT AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. ADDRESSEE MISSIONS AND SIRO SHOULD COORDINATE BEST MEANS TO COMMUNICATE CONTENTS OF THESE STUDIES TO RESPONSIBLE, INTERESTED AGENCIES OF HOST GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL. REACTIONS SHOULD BE REPORTED IN TERREP EXCLUSIVE CHANNELS AS WELL AS OTHERS.

13. QUOTE: UPDATE ON IRANIAN-SPONSORED TERRORISM: 23 JUNE 1985. IRANIAN-BACKED TERRORIST GROUPS HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ALMOST 30 ATTACKS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1984. IRAQ, FRANCE, AND THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO BE THE PRIMARY TARGETS. WHILE MOST OF THE RECENT INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO IRANIAN-BACKED GROUPS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT IRANIAN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

. IRAQ HAS SUFFERED SEVEN OR EIGHT TERRORIST ATTACKS AT THE HANDS OF IRANIAN-SPONSORED GROUPS, INCLUDING THE ATTEMPTED BOMBING OF FOUR IRAQI DIPLOMATS' CARS IN ATHENS LAST DECEMBER. A GREEK BOMB DISPOSAL EXPERT WAS KILLED IN ONE OF THESE INCIDENTS.

. THERE WERE ALSO THREE OR FOUR ATTACKS INSIDE IRAQ, INCLUDING TWO BOMBINGS IN PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN'S HOMETOWN OF TIKRIT.

. IRAN TRAINS AND FINANCES SEVERAL IRAQI DISSIDENT GROUPS, SUCH AS THE ISLAMIC ACTION ORGANIZATION THAT CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE BOMBINGS IN ATHENS, THAT ARE DEDICATED TO OVERTHROWING IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN. IF IRAN SUFFERS FURTHER SETBACKS IN ITS WAR WITH IRAQ, TEHRAN MAY ACCELERATE ITS EFFORT TO HIT IRAQI TARGETS WHEREVER THEY ARE VULNERABLE.

14. THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE HAVE BEEN THE MAIN FOCUS OF IRANIAN-SPONSORED TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN LEBANON. OVER THE PAST 10 MONTHS, THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT PRO-IRANIAN SHI'AS IN LEBANON HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR AT LEAST 19 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING EIGHT ATTACKS AGAINST US AND SIX AGAINST FRENCH TARGETS:

. THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO REMOVE ANY REASONABLE DOUBTS OF IRANIAN COLLUSION WITH LEBANESE SHI'A TERRORISTS WHO CARRIED OUT THE BOMB ATTACKS ON THE US MARINE BARRACKS, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND THE FRENCH MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN BEIRUT IN 1983. THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE TERRORISTS AND IRAN ARE THE SHAYKH ABDALLAH BARRACKS IN THE BAQA' VALLEY, CONTROLLED BY THE IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD, AND THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS, PARTICULARLY AMBASSADOR MUTASHAMIPUR.

. ISLAMIC JIHAD CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR KIDNAPPING FOUR PRIVATE US CITIZENS, AND PRO-IRANIAN SHIAS ALMOST CERTAINLY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ABDUCTING ANOTHER AMERICAN ON 9 JUNE. HIZBALLAH ELEMENTS NOW HOLD SEVEN AMERICANS SOMEWHERE IN LEBANON.

. RADICAL SHIA TERRORISTS PROBABLY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH OBSERVER FORCE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, THE KIDNAPPING OF THREE FRENCH DIPLOMATS IN MARCH--TWO OF WHOM ARE STILL BEING HELD BY THE SO-CALLED ISLAMIC JIHAD (HIZBALLAH), TOGETHER WITH THE SEVEN AMERICANS--AND THE ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING OF A FRENCH JOURNALIST IN APRIL. ISLAMIC JIHAD PUBLICLY CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THREE OF THESE INCIDENTS.

. RADICAL SHIAS MAY HAVE KIDNAPPED TWO BRITISH CITIZENS IN WEST BEIRUT ON 14 AND 15 MARCH. THE TWO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED, PERHAPS BECAUSE THEIR CAPTORS REALIZED THEY WERE NOT AMERICAN. A BRITISH PROFESSOR AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BEIRUT WAS KIDNAPPED IN MAY, PROBABLY BECAUSE HE WAS MISTAKEN FOR AN AMERICAN. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND DEAD.

. THE RADICAL SHIA GROUPS IN LEBANON--FUNDED, SUPPLIED, AND TRAINED BY IRAN--ARE DEDICATED TO BRINGING ABOUT AN ISLAMIC REVOLUTION IN LEBANON. THEY CONSIDER THE ELIMINATION OF ANY WESTERN, PARTICULARLY AMERICAN, PRESENCE IN LEBANON (SUCH AS THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT AND CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARIES--AND THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE) TO BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD ACHIEVING THEIR GOAL. IN ADDITION, IRAN HAS ENCOURAGED ATTACKS AGAINST FRENCH TARGETS BECAUSE OF FRANCE'S SUPPORT FOR IRAQ.

PRO-IRANIAN TERRORISTS CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN WESTERN EUROPE, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN NO ATTACKS OTHER THAN THE FOUR BOMBINGS IN ATHENS SINCE SEPTEMBER. EVIDENCE INDICATES IRAN USES ITS NETWORK OF DIPLOMATIC AND CULTURAL MISSIONS TO SUPPORT THESE TERRORIST OPERATIONS.

. LAST NOVEMBER, SEVEN PRO-IRANIAN LEBANESE SHIA WERE ARRESTED IN LADISPOLI, ITALY FOR PLANNING A CAR BOMB ATTACK AGAINST THE US EMBASSY IN ROME.

. IN FEBRUARY, TWO IRANIANS WERE CONVICTED IN SPAIN FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN A PLOT TO HIJACK A SAUDI AIRLINER.

. IN MARCH, SEVERAL IRANIANS WERE EXPelled FROM FRANCE FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

. FRAGMENTARY EVIDENCE SUGGESTS IRAN CONTINUES TO TRACK ANTI-KHOMEINI EXILES IN EUROPE. ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS COULD OCCUR AT ANY TIME.

. THE TWO HIJACKERS OF TWA FLIGHT 847 THAT LEFT ATHENS ON 14 JUNE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF HIZBALLAH, BUT THEIR COMMUNIQUES CLEARLY INDICATED THE INFLUENCE OF IRANIAN PROPAGANDA. HIZBALLAH ELEMENTS IN LEBANON SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK CONTROL OF THE HIJACKING, HOWEVER, AND NOW HOLD INDEPENDENTLY OF AMAL SOME OF THE REMAINING AMERICAN PASSENGERS. THE HIZBALLAH MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO BLOCK ANY DECISION BY AMAL TO RELEASE THE AMERICAN PASSENGERS UNDER THE LATTER'S CONTROL.

THE HIJACKING OF TWA 847 AND THE FATE OF ITS PASSENGERS HAS BECOME ENMESHED IN AN INTERNAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN HIZBALLAH AND AMAL FOR DOMINANT INFLUENCE AMONG THE SHIA COMMUNITY. HIZBALLAH IS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH TEHRAN ON THIS QUESTION. THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THIS STRUGGLE FOR TEHRAN, SYRIA, ISRAEL AND THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST ARE OBVIOUS, AND COULD BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

IRAN CONTINUES TO TRAIN AND PROVIDE OTHER SUPPORT TO DISSIDENTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF, ASIA AND AFRICA. TERRORIST ATTACKS COULD BE ENCOURAGED BY IRAN AT ANY TIME.

. SHIA DISSIDENTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, AND BAHRAIN

ARE RECEIVING MILITARY TRAINING IN IRAN AND SOME HAVE RETURNED HOME TO UNDERTAKE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. RECENT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN BAHRAIN, TWO BOMBINGS CLAIMED BY ISLAMIC JIHAD IN SAUDI ARABIA IN MAY, AND THE SUICIDE CAR BOMB ATTACK ON THE AMIR OF KUWAIT INDICATE AN INCREASING THREAT FROM IRANIAN-TRAINED TERRORISTS AGAINST MODERATE ARAB REGIMES. THIS THREAT COULD IMPACT DIRECTLY UPON THE VITAL INTERESTS OF WESTERN EUROPE, SUCH AS ACCESS TO OIL AND PEACE PROCESS.

. IRAN IS INVOLVED IN AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY AMONG MUSLIM POPULATIONS IN COUNTRIES AS DIVERSE AS NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, INDONESIA, AND THE PHILIPPINES.

MANY ELEMENTS OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING SEVERAL SENIOR OFFICIALS, ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY. FOR EXAMPLE, DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN TEHRAN AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ABROAD ARE MAINTAINED THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE PASDARAN (REVOLUTIONARY GUARD). SO LONG AS THE CHARACTER OF THE CURRENT REGIME REMAINS THE SAME, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IRAN'S POLICY OF SPONSORING TERRORISM WILL CHANGE. WE ARE THEREFORE FACING A LONGTERM PROBLEM OF HOW TO MINIMIZE THE EFFECTS OF IRANIAN TERRORIST POLICIES, PERSUADE IRAN TO ABANDON THEM, PROTECT MODERATE ARAB REGIMES AND PREVENT TERRORISM FROM SPILLING OVER INTO WESTERN EUROPE. THERE ARE THREE AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WESTERN ACTION:

. FIND WAYS TO MAKE TEHRAN PAY A PRICE FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF TERRORISM;

. STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY AND WILL OF OTHER STATES TO RESIST IRANIAN TERRORISM;

. TRY TO ENCOURAGE SYRIA, AFTER THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON, TO EXERT ITSELF MORE FORCEFULLY IN CURTAILING IRANIAN-SPONSORED TERRORISM BASED IN LEBANON.

UNLESS RAPID DECISIVE COLLECTIVE ACTION CAN BE TAKEN SO AS TO STEM THE GROWING RADICAL SHIA CANCER, STRONGLY INFLUENCED AND DIRECTED FROM TEHRAN, IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A STILL MORE RAPID SPREAD OF RADICALISM INTO OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, TOGETHER WITH AN INCREASED SPILLOVER INTO WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

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